

For Immediate Release: March 14, 2007

**AIRPORT LEASE AGREEMENT**

Yesterday evening, at the March 13<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting, City Councilmember Sam Liccardo moved to defer consideration of the Norman Y. Mineta/San Jose Airport lease agreements, until the City could conduct sufficient community outreach to fully inform nearby neighborhoods of the impacts of the new leases on the City's ability to enforce the curfew. The Council unanimously agreed to the deferral.

After the meeting, Liccardo noted, "I made the motion at council to defer action to ensure that we fully inform the community about the impact of the proposed airline leases on our neighborhoods. From my conversations with neighborhood leaders in our district, I've sensed widespread concern about whether the proposed leases give the City the tools it needs to enforce the curfew and protect neighborhoods affected by aircraft noise. Everything I've learned tells me that we're doing everything we can, within the limits of federal law, to ensure that my downtown neighbors get a decent night's sleep."

Aviation Director Bill Sherry explained to the council that the new leases do not weaken the City's position in any way to enforce the curfew, and the City can continue to rely upon \$2,500 fines and civil injunctive relief against airlines that violate the curfew. Moreover, the new leases contain additional language under which airlines voluntarily agree not to conduct otherwise curfew-exempt flights—that is, planes that emit noise at lower decibel levels than are regulated by the curfew--during curfew hours.

While agreeing with Sherry's statement, Liccardo felt that recent media reports suggesting some weakening in curfew rules had sufficiently raised community concerns within his downtown district to compel a need to discuss the impact of the new lease provisions. Liccardo will host a community meeting on Monday, March 26, at 6 pm, at City Hall, at which Sherry will be present to speak and answer questions

Contact	Contact Information	What They can Provide
Jessica García-Kohl	(408)535-4934	Direct responses from Councilmember Liccardo